



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2022-1356

Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio
44301

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer Zachary McCormick

Activity Date: September 14, 2022

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 0004 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Chuck Moran interviewed Akron Police Department (APD) Officer Zachary McCormick (McCormick), who was accompanied by his attorney, Jason Wells, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at 1460 Triplett Boulevard, Akron, Ohio. Fraternal Order of Police Akron Lodge #7 President Clay Cozart was also present during the interview.

The interview was audio recorded.

Officer McCormick was identified as being a police officer who had some level of involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 1659 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer McCormick did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident and arrived on scene after the shooting. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

On June 27, 2022, Officer McCormick was the driver of marked a APD cruiser, Car 09. Officer McCormick was not working with a partner. Officer McCormick was wearing his standard APD uniform.

Prior to the interview, SA Momchilov was advised that Officer McCormick had typed a supplemental report that documented his involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting. Officer McCormick wished to read the narrative out loud and then he would answer any follow-up questions if needed.

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Officer McCormick's typed narrative reads:

NARRATIVE
<p>I (Ofc. Z. McCormick #1498), while working uniformed patrol in car #9, was in the area when car [REDACTED] vehicle pursuit concluded near E Wilbeth Rd and Main St. I responded to assist other officers.</p> <p>On scene, I approached the wrecked suspect vehicle along with other officers. Once it was cleared, I assisted in securing the perimeter and setting up crime scene tape.</p> <p>I then assisted with scene security in the area of Dallas Av./E Wilbeth Av. I directed traffic until I was relieved.</p> <p>While directing traffic, Shay Twyman approached me and stated she had heard gunshots from the shooting. She stated she lived at 1582 Evergreen Av and that the house had cameras. She was not sure if the cameras would have recorded anything. Due to the location of her address, it was not likely. I asked her to check and to call if she found any relevant footage.</p> <p>Once the crime scene was cleared, I cleared the scene and went off shift.</p> <p>BWC available.</p>

SA Momchilov asked Officer McCormick if he recalled what specific radio traffic he heard regarding the vehicle pursuit. Officer McCormick advised that he heard Signal 5 (Emergency Traffic Only) and that the pursuit was in District 2. Officer McCormick explained that he was already en route to back up another unit that was on a traffic stop and did arrive to that location. During the pursuit, Officer McCormick stated he heard shots fired radio traffic and decided to head in the pursuit's direction.

Officer McCormick advised that he arrived on scene, "Shortly after the shots." SA Momchilov then asked Officer McCormick if he witnessed or heard any portion of the officer-involved shooting. Officer McCormick responded, "No."

SA Momchilov asked Officer McCormick if he had conversation with any of the involved officers. Officer McCormick advised that he was sequestered with Officer [REDACTED] but that they did not discuss the incident.

SA Momchilov asked Officer McCormick if he looked inside the individual's vehicle. Officer McCormick advised that he did not think that he "got too close to it."

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Officer McCormick advised that he was wearing a body-worn camera at the time of the incident and does not believe he watched the footage.

At the end of the interview, Officer McCormick was afforded the opportunity to view his body-worn camera footage. Officer McCormick declined.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

The above images are from Officer McCormick's body-worn camera footage. Based upon Officer McCormick's body-worn camera footage, Officer McCormick is seen running toward the parking lot area (Figure 1). Before reaching the parking lot, Officer McCormick is observed turning and running across the street (Figure 2). Officer McCormick is then observed clearing the vehicle with other officers.

Attachments:

The audio recording of the interview is attached to this Investigative Report.

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